



MANITOBA DIVISION

Canadian Cancer Society  
Société canadienne  
du cancer



CancerCare Manitoba  
Action Cancer Manitoba

February 6, 2012

Honourable Theresa Oswald  
302 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Oswald:

In June of 2010 the Manitoba legislature passed legislation providing for some degree of regulation of the tanning industry. This was an important step as there has been no regulation of the indoor tanning industry to this point, despite the known cancer-causing effects of indoor tanning equipment. We appreciate government supporting this legislation and thereby signalling that the indoor tanning industry represents a significant gap in public protection from known causes of cancer.

Following the passing of the bill, the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Division, CancerCare Manitoba, as well as representatives from the tanning industry and from the departments of Health and Healthy Living, have been participating in a committee tasked with developing regulations pursuant to the bill. We appreciate the opportunity to ensure that the tanning industry's representatives were not the only voice in discussions of how to best regulate their industry.

However, it is the opinion of both the Cancer Society and CancerCare Manitoba that the authorizing bill itself does not go far enough in protecting Manitobans, and particularly minors, from the dangers of indoor tanning. As the process of developing the regulations concludes it is important to make clear that we do not support the approach taken by this bill.

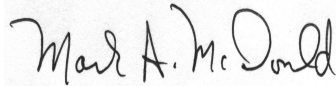
The World Health Organization, in 2009, declared that UV rays from indoor tanning equipment are a *known carcinogen* - that is, it is known to cause cancer, just as tobacco is known to cause cancer. The World Health Organization has also stated that the risk of developing melanoma skin cancer is increased by 75% for those who use indoor tanning equipment under the age of 30.

Given these startling facts the only position that can reasonably be taken is that tanning for minors must be banned, just as the sale of tobacco to minors is banned.

Although we have recognized from the outset that this bill does not go far enough in enabling protection of the public, and particularly minors, we do recognize that this legislation constitutes an important first step for Manitoba. Both of our organizations sincerely hope that Manitoba will ultimately follow the lead of other jurisdictions as soon as possible. The province of Nova Scotia, for example, has already banned indoor tanning for minors.

The regulations being put forward to the minister by the committee do not reflect our position nor do they reflect a consensus view of the committee. We nonetheless look forward to swift implementation of these regulations as they provide some improvement in the level of information and protection provided to Manitobans. We look forward to and encourage stronger legislation that will provide better protection for Manitoba children and youth in the future, and we would welcome further discussion and participation on indoor tanning regulations.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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